श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मैंने विशेषाधिकार हनन का नोटिस दिया है (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : राम अवधेश जी मैंने आपको इजाजत नहीं दी है। बैठिये। (**व्यवधान**) They get worried and say that the Civil Supplies Ministry is not working well. There are roblems. Now when the Minister wants to reply, nobody is willing to listen to him. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, in Tamil Nadu ...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing. Mr. Narayanasamy, yesterday it was discussed. एम. पी. का फोन काट दिया है। जरा आप पता लगवाकर बताइये कि क्या बात है..(**व्यवधान**) उनका टेलीफोन काटा है पार्लियामेंट्री अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर ठीक करवा देंगे। ठीक है चलिए...

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will look into it.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : महोदया,...

उपसभापति : आपका भी करवा देंगे। अभी आप आगे बढ़िए।

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : बहुत देर से 555 बटाला में खराब पड़ा है वह भी ठीक करवा दीजिए।

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION— Contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am grateful to you and to the hon. House for selecting my Ministry to discuss its working and performance. I am also grateful to the Members... (*Interruptions*)...

उपसभापति : राम अवधेश जी, आप उनको बोलने दीजिए। अब मत हैरान करिए।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : सुन लीजिए। आप जो निर्णय देना होगा दे दीजिएगा।

उपसभापति : काहे पर निर्णय देना है..(**व्यवधान**) ये बोल लें उसके बाद। यह हो जाए उसके बाद....(**व्यवधान**) क्या कह रहे हैं आप। मंत्री जी एक मिनट मुझे सुन लेने दीजिए क्या प्राब्लम है इनकी।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : सदन को गुमराह करने की कोशिश की है। इसलिए विशेषाधिकार हनन समिति के पास भेज दिया जाए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, your Minister is standing. I have called him.

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी बोलिए। I am not permitting anything.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, just two minutes.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, I want to know from the hon. Home Minister...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not permitting anything because I have already called the Minister to reply. We have very important business today. Today is the last day of the session. Mr. Narayanasamy please sit down. ..(*Interruptions*)

मौलाना अबैदुल्ला खान आजमी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अपने मिनिस्टर को तो बोलने दो।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let your own Minister reply.

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, मेरे घर का टेलीफोन कट गया है।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : महोदया...

उपसभापति : बैठिये राम अवधेश जी। चेयरमैन साहब ने ना बोल दिया है।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : हाफ ए मिनट।

उपसभापति : राम अवधेश जी, चेयरमैन साहब से आपने जो अनुमति मांगी थी उसके ऊपर इन्कार कर दिया है तो मुझे कोई अधिकार नहीं है कि मैं उस पर इकरार करूं। आप बैठिए।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : इन्कार नहीं किया है।

उपसभापति : किया है। उन्होंने नहीं दिया है। मुझे नहीं कहा है। चिट्ठी पर भी नहीं लिखा है... **(व्यवधान)** इसलिए मंत्री जी आप बोलिए।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : उन्होंने सूचना मांगी है कि..

उपसभापति : अभी मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए। फिर बाद में देखेंगे ... **(व्यवधान)** मंत्री जी खड़े हैं उनको बोलने दीजिए।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : मैडम, एक मिनट के लिए मेरी बात तो सुन लीजिए ... **(व्यवधान)** मेरे घर का टेलीफोन काट दिया गया है... **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभापति : क्या हुआ?

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : जब मैंने टेलीफोन किया तो मुझे पता लगा कि मेरे गांव का टेलीफोन.. **(व्यवधान)** मेरे घर का, मेरी कांस्टीटुएंसी का टेलीफोन काट दिया गया है।

उपसभापति : टेलीफोन काट दिया है तो टेलीफोन मंत्री जी से बात कीजिए। वे यहां अभी हैं नहीं। अभी सिविल सप्लाइज होने दीजिए। बोलिए।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : महोदया...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam Deputy Chairperson, we are all concerned about the privilege notice tabled by Mr. Ram Awadhesh Singh. It concerns a specific statement made by the Law Minister which stands out to be false and misleading. Therefore,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not aware of that privilege notice. When the Chairman accepts it and gives me instructions, I will inform the House. So whenever the Chairman informs me, I will let you know.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: In the meantime, he may be allowed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow him. I will not permit him.

उपसभापति : बोलिए। मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए। अभी आप डिस्टर्ब मत कीजिए। आपको परवाह नहीं है कि सिविल सप्लाइज मिनिस्ट्री चलती है कि नहीं। दूसरों को होगी जो बोले हैं। बोलिए मंत्री जी, बोलिए।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : गृह मंत्री ने सदन को गुमराह किया है.. **(व्यवधान)** पूरे देश को गुमराह किया है विधि मंत्री ने, इस पर भी आपको चिंता करनी चाहिए।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : (महाराष्ट्र) : बोलो भाई। ... **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभापति : आप कौन होते हैं? क्या आप चेयर पर बैठे हैं कि बोलो। जिस दिन आप चेयरमेन इलैक्ट होकर

आइयेगा, तो बोलिएगा। ...**(व्यवधान)** राम अवधेश जी, मैंने सैक्रेटेरिएट से मालूमात की है कि चेयरमैन साहब ने क्या निर्णय लिया है। उन्होंने कहा है कि आपने जो प्रिविलेज नोटिस दिया है मंत्री जी के बारे में जब तक... **(व्यवधान)** जस्ट ए सैकण्ड—कि उसके ऊपर चेयरमैन साहब गौर नहीं कर लें, मैं आपको कैसे बता सकती हूं कि क्या हुआ है।

मेरे पास कोई जादू थोड़े ही है कि मैं पता लगाऊं कि क्या हुआ है।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मेरा हाफ मिनट का निवेदन है। ...**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभापति : आपने ग्यारह बजे दिया है ना।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आप उसे सुन कर रिजेक्ट कर दीजिएगा, लेकिन मेरी बात सुन लीजिए।

उपसभापति : मैं थोड़े ही रिजैक्ट करती हूं। चेयरमैन साहब एक्सैप्ट या रिजेक्ट करते हैं।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : रिजेक्ट आप नहीं करिएगा। आप रिजेक्ट तो नहीं करेंगे, लेकिन मेरी बात सुन लीजिए। अब तक तो बात हो गई होती, मैडम।

उपसभापति : राम अवधेश जी, आप कृपया मेरी बात तो सुनिये। एक मिनट बैठिये। आज लास्ट डे है, आप जरूर कुछ न कुछ कहना चाह रहे होंगे। उसका मुझे अंदाजा है। हमेशा मैं यहां देखती हूं कि आप लास्ट डे पर कुछ न कुछ कहना चाहते हैं, मैं समझती हूं। मगर बहुत से विषय आने वाले हैं, जिस पर आप बोलें।

आपने अगर ग्यारह बजे चेयरमैन साहब को दिया है, तो सैक्रेटेरिएट मालूमात करेगा। आपने जिसके खिलाफ दिया है, वे उनसे पता लगायेंगे। उसके बाद ही तो वे जवाब दे सकते हैं। आप ग्यारह बजे दें और बारह बज कर पांच मिनट पर आप कहें कि आपको जवाब मिले तो जवाब मिल नहीं सकता। और इस तरह से आपका हाऊस में खड़ा होना, चेयरमैन साहब की अनुमति नहीं है। मैं आपको क्या बताऊं। इसलिए आप बैठ जाइये और मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : हमारा गांव में टेलीफोन चल नहीं रहा है।... **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभापति : आपका गांव में टेलीफोन चलता है या नहीं, उसके लिए आप मंत्री जी से बात कीजिए। ..**(व्यवधान)**

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : उसका क्लियर प्रूफ है, उसके लिए ज्यादा खोज की जरूरत नहीं है। गवर्नर ने लिखा है कि हमारे पास चीफ जस्टिस, पटना हाई कोर्ट ने कोई चिट्ठी नहीं लिखी है। हमारी जो सदस्या है, कमला सिन्हा उनके पास गवर्नर का कम्युनके है।

तो जब गवर्नर कहता है कि हमारे पास कोई चिट्ठी पटना हाई कोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस का नहीं है, तो फिर विधि मंत्री ने यहां हाऊस में कैसे कह दिया कि हमारी नालेज में है कि चीफ जास्टिस ने गवर्नर को चिट्ठी लिखी है। तो जान-बूझ कर हाऊस को मिसलीड किया गया है।

उपसभापति : ठीक है। चेयरमैन साहब पता लगायेंगे और जवाब देंगे।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you. You have nothing to do with this matter. Please take your seat. Chairman Saheb is the authority who will decide.

चेयरमैन साहब, प्रिविलेज बनता है तो एक्सैप्ट करेंगे, नहीं बनता तो एक्सैप्ट नहीं करेंगे। जो होगा हम आपको निर्णय बता देंगे। अब, आप बोलिये।

That matter is over now. Mr. Minister.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not permitting, please. I am not permitting anything on this matter any more. I am not permiting. I said, 'please'. I used he word 'please' with underlining with red pen.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Madam, I also express my gratitude tn the Members who have participated in this discussion. It is quite heartening that almost all the Members have spoken after a deep study of the working of the whole system of public distriction.

Before I specifically answer the points raised by the hon. Members, I wish to make two points very clear. The first point is, the public distribution system is not total. It is only partial. The entire requirements of the States are no met. They are met only partially. The second point is, the administration of the system, the enforcement of the system, lies with the State Governments. I wanted to make clear these two fundamental things.

The points raised by hon. Members, no doubt, are very serious and I am not going to deny them. Initiating the debate, the hon. Member, Mr. Ahluwaliaji, has given in detail how the system is working in the States. And particularly when he spoke, he was more or less specific about Bihar. I will not point out or I will not be specific about any particular State. I will only deal with the points raised by the hon. Members which are of general nature and universal in character. Mr. Ahluwalia, while speainkg, raised the point of increase in the issue price and increase in the price to the consumer. This matter has been raised in this House and in the other House also when the prices were revised and I need not take much time of the House on that. The circumstances which compelled the increase in prices have been mentioned here, clarified here amply. On the one hand, the farmers' demand is there to give them a bigger price even after the price was revised so far as wheat is concerned. On the other hand, even after a bonus was declared, the procurement has not been what we had anticipated or targeted. The progress is very slow. That itself shows that the farmers are demanding a far bigger price and whatever we had increased was not enough and even after that, we were compelled to increase the issue price. The amount of subsidy which is earmarked, which is budgeted, is Rs. 2,500 crores plus Rs. 250 crores. The total comes to Rs. 2,750 crores. Now, this increase in the procurement price had posed a problem and this subsidy was not just enough to meet that gap and that compelled us to revise the price and increase the issue price also.

The other thing which Ahluwalia Ji said was about the working of FCI. That remark was also of general nature. Then he emphasised the necessity of enforcement measures, that is, raids under the Essential Commodities Act, raids under the Prevention of Adulteration Act and said that more stringent action should be taken in such cases. I fully agree with him and I will give figures as to how many raids have been carried on by the State Governments. We have received reports from the various State Governments and I will give the figures also.

Shrimati Kamla Sinha also had specifically mentioned about the leakages that are existing in the system. As I said at the outset, this is matter which is deal with by the States. There might be lacunae in the administration of this system by the States and in the Public Distribution Advisory Council meeting these matters do appear and we discuss them. All these points are raised not only by the Members but the Minister concerned also. Unfortunately the system which has been existing for the last about forty-five years, during

these forty-five years, it has developed some leakages, some bad points and it has also made some improvements. But, by and large, the system has developed certain leakages. Nowhere, one basic fact we have to admit is that we, as Central Government, are not in a position, we cannot give or prescribe.... We cannot give or prescribe a common uniform system for the entire country. The matter of internal distribution, the matter of a quantum of the commodities is entirely lef with the States. The quantum which is fixed in Tamil Nadu may not necessarily be the same in West Bengal or Kerala or Andhra Pradesh. The implementing agencies also may be different. In Andhra Pradesh the fair price shops owners are nominated and they are individuals. Kerala also has a different system. West Bengal also has a different system. Maharashtra has a different system. But there is no uniformity in the system. So we as Central Government are not in a position to give them a uniform system to be carried out because the matter is totally and exclusively with the State Governments. I share the difficulties which have been expressed, that much I can say at this stage. We are trying to improve the system. We have been writing to the Chief Ministers, we have been writing to the Civil Supplies Ministers, to carry on more vigilant activities, to carry on more raids on the hoarders, on the black marketeers and make use of the provisions of laws in the Prevention of Black Marketing Act and also in the Essential Commodities Act. The figures have been gievn by the State Governments about the total raids conducted in a year. The total raids carried out by them in one year is about 1,66,000. The number is quite amazing, but when I look into that, for one State of Uttar Pradesh they have given a figure of about 60,000 to 65,000 which doesn't seem to be realistic. I have to find out the fact whether even the normal checks have been taken to be a raid. We are getting the details. Anyway. I can assure the hon. Members that the States are doing their job and it is only on that basis I said in the other House, I think so, that the system is working satisfactorily upon which the hon. Member... (*Interruption*)...

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT (Madhya Pradesh): What about Delhi?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I will come to it later.

Sushmaji was very angry and asked: How can you say that this system is so satisfactory? I only said, "In spite of the chaotic conditions which are prevailing in the Administration of the PDS in the entire country and particularly in certain States,—I won't name them—we are in a position to distribute about 20 million tonnes, about a crore and eighty lakh tonnes of grains, and make them available to the poor." I can only express my satisfaction. Of course, there is scope for improvement in every State; to that extent, we are taking care.

Shri Vishvjit Singh made some very useful observations. He gave some suggestions also. Specifically he said about the targetisation to exclude the non-deserving class. As a matter of fact, I have to admit that the PDS is universal in naure. Everybody has a right to make use of this system and the very number of cards will show that it is far exceeding than what actually is necessary. He has also suggested that we have to take up the "Food for Work" programme, the Jawahar Nehru Rozgar Yojna on the same basis. He has also pointed out about the beneficiary States. He has made a distinction. He named the States, saying that such and such State is taking full advantage and such and such State is not taking full advantage. Well, it is a factual position; I can't say just that. I would only appeal to those States which are not making use of this system, to make use of this system and take full benefit.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam, I have a submission to make on this point.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You make your submission afterwards. Let him finish his reply.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I wish the hon. Member, Sushmaji, had been present. She made some very, very strong remarks about the whole system. She also referred to her own tenure as Civil Supplies Minister of Haryana State. I thought, having been the Minister in the State, she would be more sympathetic to me because she knew everything about how the system works in the States. But she had also expressed the same concern which almost every Member had expressed about the system and I can only say that whatever is possible for the Central Government we are doing and we will further do. She has particularly mentioned about the requirements of Rajasthan and that the Central Government is not giving the full allocations to meet the needs of Rajasthan. As I said in the beginning, the P.D.S. is only a partial thing; it does not give the full requirements.

Madam, I must make two things clear about her remarks. She has mentioned about the impurities in the P.D.S. grains. I wish to submit that the whole thing has started with a report in the press that the P.D.S. grains contain 49 per cent impurities. It was quite an amazing remark and when I looked into that I found that it was only a hypothetical story constructed by the concerned reporter or the concerned journalist and based on that some hon. Members came out with this case. I think that the Ministry of Food has clarified the whole thing. I respectfully submit that as regards the permissible impurities, or whatever it is, there is a law and the rules are also framed under that. The rules framed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, as it is called, have defined everything. It has prescribed the limit of foreign matter; it has prescribed the limit of moisture; it has prescribed the limit of other foodgrains. In any case, in the matter of wheat it has been clearly mentioned, "provided that the total foreign matter, other edible grains and damaged grains shall not exceed 12% by weight". This is very clear under the rules. About rice, it is mentioned, "provided that the total foreign matter and damaged grain shall not exceed 6% by weight. This is the factual position. If the moisture is also to be taken as impurities and added to that and somehow the percentage is brought to 49, I can only say that I cannot help that. The factual position has been described.

Now, there is another thing. Suppose the grains which are issued to the public distribution system by the F.C.I. contain any substandard material or if they are not satisfactory to the fair price shop-owners and the Civil Supplies Corporation which takes the delivery, they have a right to reject them. They could have as well rejected them. Sometimes it happens that they do reject the grains and those grains are replaced. This was the actual question the hon.Member, Sushmaji, had raised a nd, I think, this clarifies the position.

The next thing she mentioned was about the Consumer Protection Act. She particularly mentioned about the health services and said that the Government hospitals should be brought under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act. As I submitted earlier in the other House as also here, I submit once again that the Consumer Protection Act covers all the commodities and services. There is no exemption at all. There was some problem with regard to the interpretation of the existing law. There the services offered free of cost were exempted. The Government hospitals and the municipal services were supposed to be free of cost. So they could not be brought under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act. That was one thing. The second thing—I think it was a lacunae — that the relationship between the doctor and the patient was a contract service. So that plea was being taken. The Consumer Protection Council had appointed

[Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed]

a working group. The working group has gone into the details of working of the Consumer Protection Act, Shri Niren Dey, who is the Minister of Civil Supplies, West Bengal, was the Chairman of that group. They have submitted a recommendation which has been adopted by the Consumer Protection Council. Now it is under the consideration of the Ministry. We are also consulting different concerned Ministries. I have committed in the other House that I will bring the amending Bill in the Monsoon Session. Positively, I have bring it. Some specific recommendations of the working group are there on these two things. In the definition they have suggested suitable modifications. They have recommended that services offered by the Government hospitals should be brought under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act. As such there is no exemption. The matter is under the consideration of the Ministry. At the moment this much I can say.

Shri Kapil Verma, has also given some suggestions, like elimination of bogus cards, more items to be brought under the PDS and the total coverage of Consumer Protection Act. Shri Ray has suggested something about the working of this system. One universal complaint was the sub-standard grains and leakages in the administration of the system. I can only say that we will try to rectify the system. Shri Chhotubhai Patel has mentioned about the necessity of kerosene and use of mobile van in Gujarat. As I said, the allocation of kerosene is based not on the total need of the State but depending upon the availability in the Central Pool and also according to the demand of the states plus based on the previous allocation. However, I have taken note of it. Whatever is possible from outside, I will do. I will also pass on his request to the Gujarat Government. I must thank Mr. Mohinder Singh Lather for the personal sentiments he expressed for me. I am grateful to him. He has given suggestions about the enforcement of various laws. He has suggested that these two Acts, the Essential Commodities Act and the Prevention of Adulteration Act, to be clubbed together. Here with regard to the administration of these two Acts I humbly submit that there are very deterrent punishments under the Act. People have also been detained. I will give the figures in the end as to how many people have been detained under the Act during the year. Shri Santosh Bagrodia has given a very good and very important suggestion about the machine stiching of grain bags. I will pass on this suggestion to the Ministry of Food. That takes away many of the possible leakages and the leakages become impossible. That is a very good suggestion. I am going to act on that.

Shri Ganesan from Tamil Nadu has given some suggestions about the elimination of bogus cards and all that.

Shri Mohanty was specific about Orissa and here, I can only say that the same principle is applied to the State of Orissa as it is applied to all other States. And I can only join him in requesting the Orissa Government to effectively administer the Public Distribution System there.

I am grateful to my old colleague in the Assembly, Mr. Giri Prasad, who has joined me in Parliament. After a break of 25 years, we have joined together. Of course, because of paucity of time, he was not able to say all the points that he had wanted to. But he has made some observations about the prices. Madam, this price-rise matter has been discussed in this House umpteen times. In the circumstances that are prevailing in the country and which were prevailing in the country last year, I would only say that the point to-point inflation rate which had gone up to 16% in August last has come down and — it is almost steady — it is between 12% and 13%. Our effort is to bring it down further. The circumstances prevailing in the country, of course, are posing big problems to bring it down. But anyway our efforts are there. Mr. Vicent was very vocal about the requirements of Tamil Nadu. He was saying that only 69 per cent...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. I agree that he is very vocal.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: He was saying that only 69 per cent of the requirements of his State are met. I do appreciate that.

He was also mentioning about providing soft loans, through NABARD, for the administration of the PDS. In fact, this matter was discussed in the PDS Council. The PDS Council was almost unanimous on this point that the Reserve Bank, through NABARD, must take some measures whereby some soft credit is provided to the States.

Dr. Pandey also gave very good suggestions and he was particularly mentioning about the inadequate commission that is being given to the fair-price shop dealers. This matter also was discussed in the PDS Council and almost the Civil Supplies Ministers of all the States were of this opinion that this commission had to be increased. The problem again is that if the commission is increased, then prices have to go up and the consumer has to bear this burden of commission. This point was discussed there and anyway, the general opinion in the Council was that the commission was inadequate and that it had to be increased. I don not know how many States have acted on that. I will collect more information from them and only after that, I will be able to give some specific reply.

Mr. Ram Awadhesh Singh—he was the last speaker yesterday—also mentioned about a few things and he was more general in his remarks rather than specific.

In the end, I wish to make a submission about the revamping of the PDS. I did not club it with my reply to the hon. Members' suggestions because I wanted to submit about it a bit in detail. Madam, this system, as I submitted, has been in this country for the last 44 or 45 years. In fact, it was started during the British regime after the great Bengal famine. To see that the supplies continued and that no hoarding or blackmarketing was possible, they introduced the system, of course, in a meagre way. But, somehow, this system has survived in this country and it is surviving and now it has come to this stage.

But, as I submitted, the system was not so orderly. It was almost in a chaotic condition because there was no uniformity in the system. The administration was not at all monitored by anybody and the State Governments, because of their finaniacl constraints and other constraints, also were not very active. So, all these things were there. Since our party had promised in its manifesto that we would strengthen the public distribution system soon after we came to power, immediately after the Prime Minister took over, the public distribution system became his first priority and the first matter of attention. Immediately, we called a conference of the Chief Ministers and the Public Distribution System Advisory Council meetings were held. Twice the Chief Ministers were called and the decision was somehow to revamp the whole system. Now, various alternatives were discussed and we started. we made a beginning, by identifying the areas because the main object of the public distribution system is to see that the poorest of the poor are helped. This is the basic and fundamental concept. So, according to that, we thought and the Prime Minister thought that we should pick up those areas where more number of poor people, more number of people living below the poverty line, live. Naturally, those areas would be the tribal areas, desert development areas, desinated hill areas and the drought-prone areas. Now, these areas were identiefid. One thousand seven hundred blocks were identified and then the decision was taken that these areas should be fuly covered. Now, this revamped public distribution system, which was launched on the 1st of January 1992 in Barmer, has cover-

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ed about 167 million people. Madam, this constitutes about 20 per cent of the population. This one step of the Prime Minister has covered one-fifth of the population of this country.

Now, under this revamped system, many steps have to be taken. The basic thing was that the whole system had gone into irregularities because of the inability to take commodities to the doorsteps of the villagers. This was the main thing. So, under this scheme, this fact was recognised and the State Governments were asked to see that under this revamped scheme, in all the remote areas, in all the tribal areas, in all the major areas, we have to see that the commodities of the PDS must reach the consumers and they should be delivered at their doorsteps. For this, there was an additional commitment of about three million tonnes of grains. That also has been provided. Then, Shri Manmohan Singh has been very generous to give us about Rs. 250 crores more for this revamped shceme. About 11,000 shops had to be additionally opened and additional capacity for storage also had to be created. Over and above all these things, there was one factor, basic factor, which was thought over and recognised and it was that unless the beneficiaries were involved in the vigilance or monnitoring of the system, no system could succeed. Therefore, under this revamped public distribution system. the State Governments were asked to see that the vigilance committees were appointed consising of the beneficiaries who were not to be nominated as is generally done. The allegation generally is that political workers are appointed. So we said that the beneficiaries must have the right to oversee and monitor the system. So, a Committee consisting of the beneficiaries should be appointed, and in that women also must be associated. We have prescribed two or three women. So, the steps included under this are: additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards and delivery of the PDS commodities at the doorstep of the villagers, issue of additional commodities of mass consumption such as pulses, tea, iodized salt, soaps, exercise books, etc. to the consumers. They have been requested to set up vigilance committees at various levels, including fair price shops and also at the village level, involving consumers in those areas, particularly representatives of women, voluntary and consumer organisations to monitor the arrival and distribution of PDS items to consumers. So, these were the salient features of the revamped PDS.

I want to submit to the hon. House that after this first step, we have to take another step also to extend our assistance or cover the remaining poorer sections of the population. We will be doing that exercise also. And I can only assure that only after that we will be satisfied that the whole public distribution system has been revamped.

Now, Madam, I wish to submit what progress we have achieved after this launching of the system.
(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have two Bills today. टाइम भी डिस्ट्रिब्यूट करना है हम लोगों को।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मेरे सवालों का जवाब नहीं दिया।

श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद : सारे सवालों का जवाब दे दिया है।

माननीय सदस्य : आप नहीं थे जवाब दे दिया है। **(व्यवधान)**

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह मेरे सवाल का क्या जवाब दिया ?

उपसभापति : एक-एक का जवाब दिया है। नाम लेकर दिया है। आप इधर-उधर घूमते हैं इसलिए नहीं मिला आप रिकार्ड उठाकर देख लीजिएगा। उन्होंने जवाब दे दिया है।

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Madam, I wish to submit the progress that we have achieved in implementation up to 30th April, 1992 after this revamped scheme was launched. Madam, the additional fair price shops proposed were 11,194. Out of that, 7,002 have been opened during this period. The proposal was for 20,94,798 additional ration cards. Out of that, 10,64,411 new cards have already been issued. And elimination of bogus cards has also been done. 3,73,19,343 bogus units have been eliminated. The proposed additional storage was 3,30,380 tonnes. Out of that, an additional storage of 33,150 tonnes has already been provided. In some of the States, some additional commodities have also been provided. For example, in Haryana, tea, exercise books, soaps and salt have been provided. In Himachal Pradesh, tea, soaps, salt, and pulses have been provided. In Gujarat, tea, soaps, salt and pulses have also been added. And in Arunachal, iodized salt has been provided.

So also in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, tea, exercise books, soaps and salt have been provided. Then in Rajasthan also tea, soaps, salt and pulses have been added. This is the specific implementation progress that I wanted to share with the hon. House. I am sure during the current year itself, all the steps that have to be taken for the full implementation of the revamped public distribution system, will be taken.

I also want to share some more information with the hon. members, and that is about the raids conducted. During 1991, 1,66,000 raids were conducted; 5754 persons were arrested; number of persons prosecuted is 6735; number of persons convicted is 291; value of the goods confiscated is Rs. 25.76 crores. This is in addition to the action taken in Delhi. In Delhi, about two-three months back, Delhi Administration had conducted raids and confiscated goods worth about Rs. 60 crores. During the first two months of 1992, the number of raids conducted is 17,000; number of persons arrested is 521; number of persons convicted is 24. Then, about the persons ordered to be detained under the Prevention of Blackmarketing Act, in 1990, the number was 103; number of persons detained in 1991 was 146; in 1992, up to March, the number of persons detained is 68; These are the facts which I wanted to submit to the hon. House.

I once again express my gratitude to you that you chose this Ministry for discussion about its working and performance. Think you.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I want to give two important suggestions regarding blackmarketing. If you give wheat in the Banswara district in the ration shops, who is going to consume it? Government must procure also coarse grains for these 1700 blocks; otherwise, what will happen is, if you give wheat....

उपसभापति : इतना लम्बा डिसक न हो गया, इतना लम्बा रिप्लाई हो गया, अब मुझे लगता है कि हमें आगे के बिजनैस पर जाना चाहिए।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam, now the monsoon has set in. In many places, the monsoon has already set in. There are areas where it will be very difficult to transport these items. Those are very difficult areas. I want to know whether you have increased the quota for the month of May for at least three months more. Take for example the Ratnagiri district. You require foodgrains to be given from now itself; let these be stored. I want to know whether the Government has taken action about it or not. Then, thirdly, ten lakh tonnes of wheat was given to the flour mills when there was no stock. Are you going to stop it? Please see that the quota of State Governments is supplied fully.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have a lot of business today.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि . . . (**व्यवधान**) ।

उपसभापति : इस तरह से बीच बीच में इन्टरसन्स होंग तो काम कैसे चलेगा ?

श्री राम नरेश यादव : मुझे एक मिनट निवेदन करना है।

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी इतना लम्बा बोल चुके हैं, अब जानने के लिए कुछ रहा ही नहीं है।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछले साल वसूली भी कम हुई थी और इस साल अभी मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया है कि हमारी वसूली बहुत धीमी गति से चल रही है। ऐसी स्थिति में प्रश्न यह है कि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को चुस्त करने की सारी व्यवस्था तो है, लेकिन अगर आपके पास भंडारों में गेहूं नहीं होगा तो कैसे आप सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से गरीब लोगों तक गेहूं को पहुंचाने की व्यवस्था करेंगे . . . (**व्यवधान**) ।

उपसभापति : आप तो कह रहे थे कि एक मिनट लूंगा। अब आप भाषण न करें।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : मार्केट में साढ़े 3 रुपये और 4 रुपये में गेहूं बिक रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति में आप किसान के लिए क्या करने जा रहे हैं जिससे आपका प्रोक्योरमेंट अधिक हो सके, सरकार के भंडार में गेहूं आ सके ? इसके साथ साथ उपभोक्ता के लिए भी आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं ताकि महंगाई की जो मार उस पर पड़ती है उससे वह बच सके ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing any more. (*Interruptions*) No. (*Interruptions*) We have had a long discussion and the longest every reply on this subject. I have other Business before me. (*Interruptions*) we now take up the Legislative Business. There is a Bill to be introduced.

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : मैडम, सिविल सप्लाई पर डिस्कशन चल रहा है। मैं एक बात कहना चाहती हूं कि पिछले दिनों गाय और सुअर की चर्बी का मामला आया था। उससे पूरा देश बहुत चिंतित था . . .

उपसभापति : बस हो गया। लेजिस्लेटिव बिजनेस . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . मंत्री जी आप उन्हें वहां बैठकर जवाब दे दीजिये। . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . सत्या बहिन बैठिये ।

SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: We want a reply from the Minister.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: This is a most important point. (*Interruptions*)

श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद : मैडम, राम नरेश यादव जी ने जो प्रश्न इस वक्त उठाया है, यह सही है कि कुछ धीमा चल रहा है प्रोक्योरमेंट। लेकिन हमारी कोशिश है कि हमारा प्रोक्योरमेंट ठीक ढंग से चले और प्रोक्योरमेंट हम कर भी पायें। एक और प्वाइंट मैं इस वास्ते वालंटर कर रहा था जवाब देने के लिये कि एक बात मुझे कहनी थी जो मैंने अपने जवाब में नहीं कही। बहुत सी स्टेट्स में प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं हो रहा है। हमारी कोशिश हो रही है, हम चाहते हैं कि सारी स्टेट प्रोक्योर करें। कुछ इस तरह की डिमांड भी है प्रोक्योरमेंट और अलोकेशन को लिंक किया जाय। मैं सदन में आपके द्वारा उन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स से गुजारिश करता हूं कि जो प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं कर रहे वे प्रोक्योरमेंट करें और प्रोक्योरमेंट में हमारी मदद करें, एक बात। दूसरा जो कोअर्स ग्रेन वाली बात है, हमारी सारी कोशिशों के बावजूद कोअर्स ग्रेन का प्रोडक्शन इस कंट्री में कम हो गया है, दैट इज होल प्राबलम। मैं इस वक्त इस कन्सर्न को शेयर करता हूं और मैं इस समय यही कह सकता हूं कि आप हम सब मिलकर अच्छे मानसून के लिये दुआ करें।

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